

From: Trent Larson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:17pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would just like to say that Microsoft has put way too much control into their new Operating system windows XP. First, many of the multimedia utilities like Media player and internet explorer cannot be uninstalled by the user if they wish to use another program. Furthermore, MS bugs customers to open up a passport account numerous times when installing the OS that the individual almost feels like they have to sign up. Microsoft can clearly be shown that they are using their unfair monopoly position to further move into other software applications. Without action against Microsoft, we will have even less software companies in other areas other then Operating systems. Our choices for good performing software will go down and we will be forced to pay more for software that is already being shown to have many security flaws.

Way back when Bill Gates said that Microsoft would never charge for internet explorer and then proceeded to build it into the operating system with no uninstall, it became very apparent that MS had become a abusive monopoly. It can be also pointed out that Microsoft is guilty of pressuring oem vendors to always bundle MS operating systems with new computers or face higher prices etc... Currently, AOL is suing MS for what they did to Netscape. I strongly agree that Netscape never got justice for what happened. I do support AOL in its fight for the abuses against Netscape and I feel that at the very least, every MS operating system should have a complete uninstall for internet explorer. Further, I feel that IE should not even be installed by default and that Netscape should also be bundled with windows as part of a punishment for the settlement against Microsoft.

It is not that I am against monopolies. AT&T the old Ma Bell was a good monopoly and I feel that current phone companies provide us with service far less then the old Ma Bell. However, it was a monopoly and had to be broken up. Ma bell was not abusive. Microsoft is abusive with its powers. They did not learn anything from the lawsuits against them. They are more arrogant then ever and show no respect for the courts or justice. It is obvious that Mr. Gates and MS feel they can beat anybody or any court with their lawyers and money. Remember, in the original case MS even was shown to lie to try to protect their monopoly position so there really needs to be strong actions taken. Already the lack of competition is bringing us weak products with poor security. MS products are the most memory intensive and processor hungry programs with numerous security holes. Fair competition would no doubt bring us better, faster and more secure programs. I support fully any action against Microsoft's unfair monopoly position to allow fair competition to generate better software for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for reading this comment.. Trent Larson tlaron38@home.com